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# Be a Fulbright Scholar - Lessons and Experiences of AIS Fulbright Scholars

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# **Panel Discussion Proposal**

## **Be a Fulbright Scholar - Lessons and Experiences of AIS Fulbright Scholars**

### **Part 1: Statement of the panel topic and the target audience**

The business environment has expanded to a point that many companies compete on a global level. The technologies are the same the world over, but the conditions in which they are used may be very different. Many of the information systems (IS) courses are affected by global impacts. For example, most introductory MIS books have a chapter or large part of a chapter on globalization. Databases must be designed for use across countries and continents.

Communications technologies connect organizations all over the globe. Outsourcing and offshoring have a profound impact on IS employment and have created new IS jobs.

It is critical for business faculty, especially IS faculty, to understand both the global environment in which they work and the similarities and differences among countries, cultures, languages, and global work practices. By developing this understanding, faculty will bring this knowledge to the classroom.

One way that faculty are able to obtain a more global view of the business world is by becoming a Fulbright Scholar. As a Fulbright Scholar, a faculty member travels to another country to live, usually for several months to a year, and they function as a faculty member at the foreign university. This experience allows the faculty member to immerse himself/herself in the culture of the foreign country and bring a greater understanding of globalization back to the classroom. It also allows faculty and students in the country being visited to experience some of the culture of the visiting faculty. Faculty who experience such a faculty exchange are able to use the experience to enhance the educational experience at their home institutions.

This panel is aimed at all faculty that would like the experience of being a Fulbright Scholar. Because it can result in such a rich faculty exchange experience, it is considered by many to be the epitome of all exchange programs.

### **Part 2: Statement of the panel objectives**

This panel will bring together five faculty members who are Fulbright Scholars. The panel includes one panel member who has been a Fulbright Scholar to two countries and two panel members who served on review committees to evaluate Fulbright Applications. Panelists will present their experiences as Fulbright Scholars and how they have utilized these experiences to increase globalization in their classes and enhance the curriculum in their IS departments. Some of the areas that will be addressed by the panelists include:

1. Why should you be a Fulbright Scholar?
2. How to apply
3. What are the reviewers looking for?
4. How universities handle the Fulbright experience
5. Living and working in the host country
6. What Fulbright Scholars bring back from the experience
7. Lessons learned from the Fulbright Scholar Experience

### **Part 3: Statement of the panel format**

Each panel member will make an 8-10 minute presentation on their experience as a Fulbright Scholar, specifically addressing items 5-7 above. Then one member of the panel will take 3-5 minutes each to address items 1-4 above. The panelists will then take questions from the audience and participate in a dialog with audience members.

### **Part 4: Short Bio of each panelist, and the panel facilitator, emphasizing those aspects in the bio that make the individual highly qualified to serve on the given panel**

Panel moderator: **Albert L. Harris**

#### **Panelists:**

**Mary Granger**, George Washington University

**Al Harris**, Appalachian State University

**Sidne Ward**, University of Missouri-Kansas City

**J. P. Allen**, University of San Francisco

**Kate Kaiser**, Marquette University

**Mary J. Granger** is a Professor at George Washington University. She taught as a Fulbright Scholar at the Warsaw School of Economics in Warsaw, Poland in 2003 and served as a Fulbright Specialist in Mongolia in 2006, assisting the Institute of Economics and Finance in establishing their Information Systems curriculum. She has also served for three years on review committees to evaluate Fulbright Applications. In addition, she has served as a visiting Professor at Corvinus University in Budapest, Hungary (2009, 2012), taught in Bangkok, Thailand (2009), and in Dalian, China (2010). She was editor of the Journal of Informatics Education Research for over 10 years and is a past AIS VP for education.

**Albert L. Harris** is a Professor in the Department of Computer Information Systems at the John A. Walker College of Business, Appalachian State University. Al was a Fulbright Scholar to the University of Évora for April-June 2006. During that time, he lived in Évora, Portugal, taught graduate classes in Information Technology, and performed research with Portuguese scholars. He also has been an exchange professor to the University of Angers, France for the 2008-09 academic year, a visiting faculty member at the Fachhochschule Vorarlberg in Dornbirn, Austria in 2006-2010, and a Professor at the University of Maryland, University College in the United Kingdom and Heidelberg, Germany for the Fall semester 2001. He was Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Information Systems Education from 2000-2010. He currently serves as Secretary of the AIS SIG:ED.

**Sidne G. Ward** is an Associate Professor at the Henry W. Bloch School of Management, University of Missouri-Kansas City. She was a Fulbright Scholar at the Kathmandu University School of Management (KUSOM) in Kathmandu, Nepal for January-July 2009. During that time she lived in Patan, Nepal, taught the required MBA core course in MIS, advised the faculty on MBA program development, and conducted research on student use of ancillary online course materials in a developing country context. She returned to KUSOM during summer 2010 as a visiting professor to teach and conduct research with Nepali faculty. She has also served as a

visiting faculty member at Euromed Marseille, Marseille, France (2005) and guest-lectured at Manipur University, Imphal, India (2011).

**J. P. Allen** is an Associate Professor at the School of Management, University of San Francisco. J.P. was a Fulbright Scholar at the University of the Azores, Portugal in the spring of 2010. He taught, developed curriculum, and mentored student research in Technology and Innovation Management on an active volcanic island in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean. J.P. has been a visiting researcher/professor in Sweden (Örebro University), Australia (Monash University), Germany (GISMA Business School), Brazil (Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais), and China (Peking University), and has worked in the UK (Cambridge University). J.P. grew up in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, and has lived in Switzerland and Greece.

**Kate M. Kaiser** is IT faculty in the College of Business at Marquette University in Milwaukee WI. She was a Fulbright Scholar in India studying retention practices of offshore firms. Based at the Management Development Institute in Gurgaon, she visited 15 companies in 6 cities interviewing developers and managers. Kate has been a visitor at University College –Dublin. She has served on review committees to evaluate Fulbright Applications, coordinated the IT Workforce Research team, and was member of the ACM-AIS IS Model Curriculum 2010 Task Force.

Part 5: Statement of any equipment needed

The panel would need the ability to project PPT presentations for the audience to see.